

CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A communication system for exchanging prescribed information through a network having pieces of terminal equipment and an information control means connected thereto, said communication system being operatively configured such that:

registered information characterizing said pieces of terminal equipment connected to said network system is registered in said information control means connected to said network system, said registered information characterizing said pieces of terminal equipment including information identifying equipment types and functional characteristics of said pieces of terminal equipment; and

when prescribed information is transmitted to the terminal equipment of a receiver connected to said network from the terminal equipment of a transmitter connected to said network, a transmission path for transmitting said information from said terminal equipment of the transmitter to said terminal equipment of the receiver is established on a basis of said registered information.

2. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to Claim 1, wherein said prescribed information transmitted from said terminal equipment of said transmitter is converted into information which can be received by said terminal equipment of said receiver.

3. (Previously Presented) An information controller connected to a network comprising:

registering means for registering registered information characterizing terminal equipment connected to said network system including terminal equipment of at least one transmitter and terminal equipment of at least one receiver, said registered information characterizing said pieces of terminal

equipment including information identifying equipment types and functional characteristics of said pieces of terminal equipment; and

communication path determining means for determining a transmission path from said terminal equipment of said transmitter to said terminal equipment of said receiver based on said registered information when prescribed information is to be transmitted to said terminal equipment of the receiver from the terminal equipment of said transmitter.

4. (Previously Presented) The information controller according to Claim 3, further comprising converting means for converting said prescribed information transmitted from said terminal equipment of said transmitter into information capable of being received by said terminal equipment of said receiver.

5. (Previously Presented) A network system for exchanging prescribed information via a network, said networked operatively configured such that:

registered information characterizing terminal equipment used by a user, terminal equipment connected to said terminal equipment used by the user, and other terminal equipment connected to said network, is registered in registering means associated with an information controller also connected to the network, together with information identifying said user, as available environmental information, said registered information characterizing said pieces of terminal equipment including information identifying equipment types and functional characteristics of said pieces of terminal equipment, and

prescribed information is transmitted to terminal equipment specified by said available environmental information.

6. (Previously Presented) The network system according to Claim 5, wherein terminal equipment having a display capable of displaying at least some of said

prescribed information is selected based on the available environmental information registered in said registering means.

7. (Previously Presented) The network system according to Claim 5, wherein said available environmental information includes information identifying an owner of at least one terminal equipment.

8. (Previously Presented) The network system according to Claim 5, wherein said available environmental information is registered in said registering means in accordance with a registration request through said terminal equipment from prescribed portable terminal means.

9. (Previously Presented) The network system according to Claim 5, wherein said available environmental information is registered in said registering means in accordance with a registration request transmitted from said terminal equipment, when prescribed external storing means is connected to said terminal equipment.

10. (Previously Presented) An information controller connected to a network comprising:

registering means for registering information characterizing terminal equipment used by a user, terminal equipment connected to said terminal equipment used by said user, and other terminal equipment connected to said network, together with information identifying said user, as available environmental information, said registered information characterizing said pieces of terminal equipment including information identifying equipment types and functional characteristics of said pieces of terminal equipment; and

transmitting means for establishing a transmission path such that provided information is transmitted to terminal equipment specified by the registered available environmental information.

11. (Previously Presented) The information controller according to Claim 10, wherein said transmitting means selects terminal equipment having a display capable of displaying at least some of said provided information on the basis of said registered available environmental information and transmits said provided information to said selected terminal equipment.

12. (Previously Presented) The information controller according to Claim 10, wherein said registering means includes information identifying an owner of terminal equipment.

13. (Previously Presented) Terminal equipment connected to a network comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting user identification information for a user using said terminal equipment, registered information identifying said terminal equipment, information about connection equipment connecting said terminal equipment to said network as available environmental information, and registered information characterizing said terminal equipment including information identifying equipment types and functional characteristics of said pieces of terminal equipment.

14. (Previously Presented) The terminal equipment according to Claim 13 comprising:

identifying information reading means connected to external storing means for reading out said user identification information from an external storage means connected to said terminal equipment, and conveying said user identification information to said network as part of said available environmental information.

15. (Previously Presented) The terminal equipment according to Claim 13 comprising:

identifying information receiving means for receiving the user identification information of said user transmitted from portable terminal means connected to said terminal equipment, and transmitting said user identification information to said network as part of said available environmental information.

16. (New) The communication system according to Claim 1 wherein an equipment type identified for one of the pieces of terminal equipment is one of a computer, a printer, a television, an audio reproducing system, a video tape recording system, and a facsimile machine.

17. (New) The communication system according to Claim 1 wherein an equipment type identified for one of the pieces of terminal equipment is one of a printer, a television, an audio reproducing system, a video tape recording system, and a facsimile machine.